AUTODOC CLUB

How to change suspension strut on a car – replacement tutorial

VIDEO TUTORIAL



REQUIRED TOOLS:



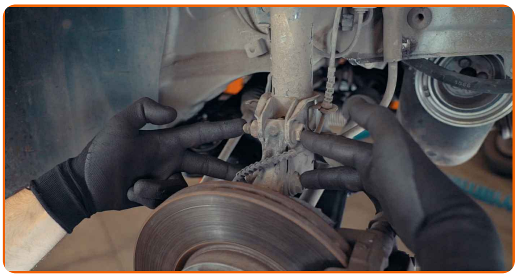
- Tap wrench
- Wheel impact socket
- Impact socket
- Hydraulic strut spring compressor
- Strut spring compressor
- Jack
- Coil spring compressor

BUY TOOLS

Please note!

- Both the front and rear axles of a vehicle can be fitted with suspension struts
- Suspension struts are replaced in pairs on an axle

1 To replace the components, you need to access their lower and upper fasteners



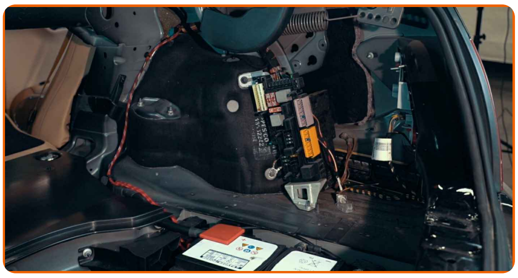
2 In the case of the front axle, you should open the bonnet and remove the scuttle panel if necessary



3 Depending on the position of the windscreen wipers on your car, you may also need to remove their arms



4 As for the rear axle components, you can access them via the boot or passenger compartment



Important!

- In some cars, the upper mount of the rear suspension strut is attached in the wheel arch area

5 Start disassembling by loosening the upper fastener of the strut without unscrewing it completely



AUTODOC recommends:

- Perform the procedure when the car is on the ground and the suspension is under load

6 Access the lower fasteners. To this end, you may need to detach the sway bar link, sensors, wiring, and hoses



Please note!

- The suspension strut can be either bolted to the steering knuckle, fitted into the mounting seat on the knuckle, or attached to the suspension arms

7 Secure or jack up the wheel assembly before removing the fasteners connecting the strut to the knuckle

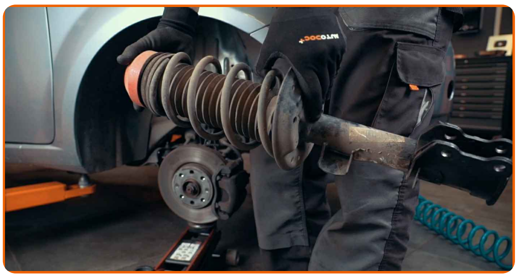


Important!

- This will prevent excessive strain on the bushings and brake hoses and detachment of the wheel drive

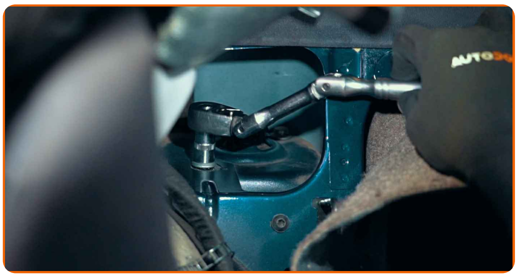
- To remove the strut from its mounting seat on the steering knuckle, you may need to force apart the mounting seat

8 As the strut is only held by the loosened upper fastener, be sure to hold it firmly when dismounting it



9

Follow the same steps to replace the components on the rear axle; access the fastener and remove the suspension strut



10

To disassemble the strut or replace its components compress and secure the spring

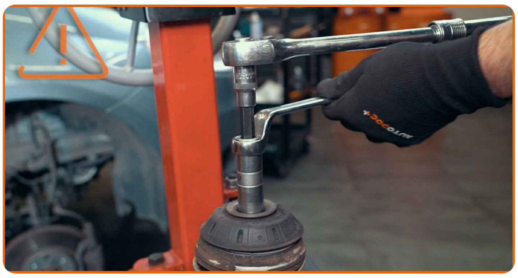


Be careful!

- Only use a safe and reliable tool to perform this procedure
- The spring force is very high, so you should firmly secure it before unscrewing the rod nut

11

Before disassembling the strut, secure the rod to prevent it from rotating. In some cases, you may need special tools to perform this procedure



12 Loosen the retaining nut that holds the spring mount, the cup, and the spring itself



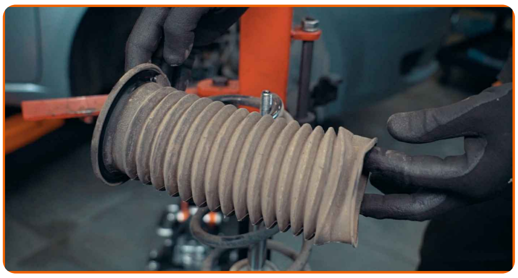
Caution!

- The nut and the top mount are already loose because the spring is compressed
- To avoid injury, make sure that the spring is not pressing on the mount before unscrewing the top nut

13 Remove the mount components and decompress the spring



14 Examine the components for damage and replace them if necessary



15 Note the position of the spring in its mounting seat



16 Prime the new shock absorber according to the manufacturer’s instructions



17 When reassembling the strut, be sure to use new seals



18 Reassemble the suspension strut in reverse order



19 Tighten the fasteners with a torque wrench to the manufacturer’s recommended torque



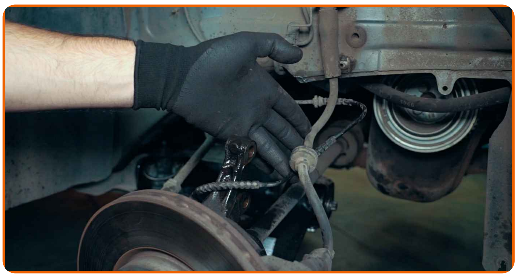
Please note!

- Depending on the car’s design, the mounts may have an installation direction
- This means that the mount has to be installed in a specific direction on both the strut and the car
- This is indicated by special marks on the parts

20 Clean the mounting seat of the strut mount on the car body and those of the strut itself on the suspension parts



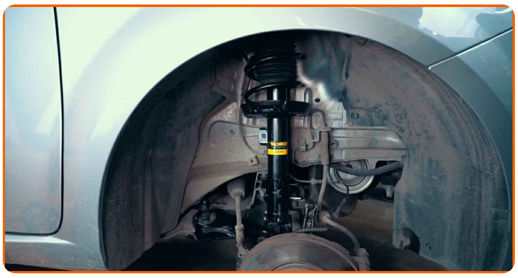
21 Be sure to attach all the hoses and wires correctly during installation



AUTODOC recommends:

- When starting the disassembly, we recommend leaving them in the position in which they will be reattached later

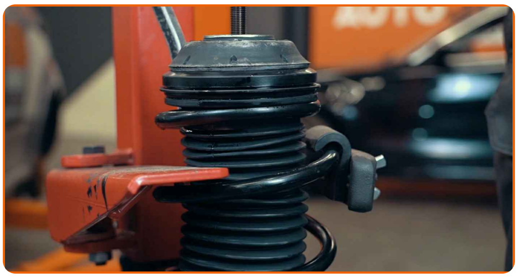
22 Install the suspension strut on the car



23 As the parts must be replaced in pairs on an axle, perform the procedure on the opposite side



24 When reassembling the component, make sure that every element is fixed securely in its mounting seat



Important!

- If the strut doesn't have a mount bearing, ensure that the mount is positioned correctly in relation to the lower fastener
- Reassemble the strut in the correct order, otherwise it simply won't fit in the mounting seat

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